

Alaska People has been out of production for several months and its permanent reappearance will depend on its readers. Is it a valuable communications tool? Do you read it? Do you like the new format? content? Should it be continued? Let External Affairs know. Alaska People's future depends on you.

ALASKA People

February was African American History Month. Q. What former BLMer and local Black historian provided the Anchorage Daily News with daily stories on the achievements of early Black Alaskans during African American History Month?



Q. Which AFS employee received the BLM's prestigious Jerry Mauk Memorial award in December at the National Fire Management Conference in San Diego?

April 1997



photo by Jim Ducker

External Affairs State Office staff. Left to right— public affairs spec. Danielle Allen, writer/editor, Janet Malone; writer/ed. Teresa MchPherson. Forefront: public aff. spec. Ed Bovy

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS: UNCOVERED?

Always there, but never under-cover is the External Affairs office. With a staff of four at the Alaska State Office, down from a staff of eight in 1993, the office is somewhat unassuming until things get urgent or go awry.

Whether it's an upset member of the public, a reporter on a deadline or a request from Washington, External Affairs is always there. Most of its work is geared to those "external" or outside of BLM. It's primary purpose is to inform the public and BLM employees about BLM programs and policies. Often called public affairs, the office of information would better describe its duties. The staff is the "eyes and ears" of the organization,

advising the State Director and his management team on how policy issues can potentially impact the public.

Currently a public affairs team (consisting of Ed Bovy (ASO), Rob McWhorter (JPO) and Sharon Wilson (NDO)) is working on ways to get public comments and input on BLM's National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska study. Key responsibilities of the External Affairs staff include:

- Provide on-demand requests for information about BLM programs from the public or employees.
- Provide administrative and logistical support to the Resource Advisory Council (RAC). RAC is a diverse group of Alaskans who

advise the State Director and staff on resource management issues.

- **Produce and distribute: news releases** - (media, agencies, organizations, interested publics);
- **briefing papers** - (Washington office, management, VIPs, etc);
- **newsletters** - *Alaska People* (employees), *Frontiers* (public, special interest groups, media);
- **feature stories** (target specific external publications).

Employees are encouraged to draft or develop news releases and briefing papers with the assistance of External Affairs. Submissions to internal and external newsletters are also welcome.

- **Approve and review publishing of all external publications.**
- **Act as primary spokespersons and liaison with media.**
- **Assist with editing, review and writing of prepared materials.**
- **Plan and develop displays and other materials for trade shows.**
- **Develop and implement VIP itineraries.**

This year External Affairs will be working more with staffs to do "outreach" (reaching out and communicating with our external publics) and developing partnership opportunities.

You will find External Affairs staff in these offices—

ASO

Northern District

Sharon Wilson (lead), public affairs spec.
Andy Williams, writer/editor
Dan Guillekson, audio visual spec.
Stan Bloom, cartographer

Joint Pipeline Office

Rob McWhorter, public affairs spec.

Glennallen District

K.J. Mushovic, out. rec. plan. (collateral)

NPR-A: The Study Begins

For the next 18 months, BLM will engage in an intensive planning effort to update its management of a portion of National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and review its potential for oil and gas leasing. The BLM administers the NPR-A, a 23-million acre reserve of public land in northwestern Alaska.

The plan will focus on 4.6 million acres in northeast NPR-A, closest to ARCO's new Alpine oil discovery. The area also includes some of the reserve's richest wildlife habitat, including Teshekpuk Lake.

An interagency team was assembled to ensure the planning process stays on schedule. Members are BLM, Minerals Management Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, state of Alaska, and the North Slope Borough.

Gene Terland, Alaska State Office resources group administrator, is the project's overall coordinator. Curt Wilson of the ASO and the NDO's Arctic team are developing the plan's alternatives. Ray Emerson of MMS is responsible for describing the resources and conducting the environmental analysis necessary for the plan. Joe Dygas (Anchorage District Office) and Jerry Shearer (MMS) will coordinate the identification and evaluation of oil and gas tracts.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt gave BLM the go-ahead to consider the northeast portion of NPR-A for leasing at the request of Alaska Gov. Tony Knowles. The development of the nearby Alpine field will bring a pipeline within a dozen miles of NPR-A and newer engineering techniques have lowered development costs for smaller fields, making interest in an NPR-A lease more likely.



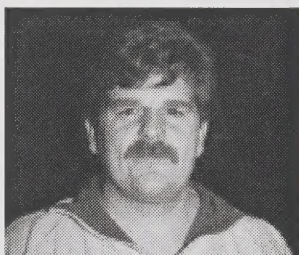
*This new feature is designed to get a wide range of views for which BLM employees are especially known.
If there's a question you'd like answered, send it to External Affairs!*

What would help you do a better job?



*Karen Collie, Realty Spec.
Anchorage District*

Stop all the reorganizations, put something in place, and proceed with the task of conveying, permitting, leasing— whatever the task may be. We need to think about our CUSTOMER and get on with business.



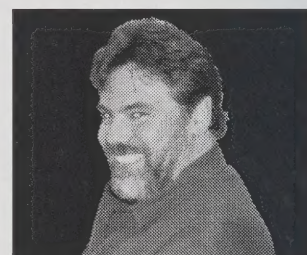
*Vince Mazzier, Safety Officer
Alaska Fire Service*

The employees themselves! "Safety" is making people aware of potential hazards around them, and keeping them from hurting or even killing themselves or others while doing their everyday activities. Not all hazards can be engineered away—some have to be mitigated or minimized. The goal is getting people to think safety in everything they do— become proactive! Learn to recognize dangerous or potentially dangerous situations, get the right equipment, and have the training in how to use it properly. We go through life only once. "Let's go safely."



*Lynette Roberts, Staff Assist.
Administrative Support Team
Northern District Office*

I feel the need for assistance is with the duties that have filtered down to the teams from the supervisory level. Individuals haven't the training or authority to counsel, document or deal with an unethical or non-productive team member. The energy required in dealing with such a co-worker is time-consuming and certainly an obstacle to efficient work flow. It would help to have an effective performance evaluation tool and a person in a layer between management and teams, with the time, training and authority to administer it.



*Scott Sanderford
Land Law Assist.
Div. of Conveyance Mgmt.*

I would like to see an organizational structure that is more dependent on interaction between adjudicators and support staff. I could provide better support if I knew more about the adjudicators' needs and they knew more about my capabilities.

Employee Profile

Susan DiPrete is a longtime BLMer, ex-surfer and the ever-enthusiastic navigable waters specialist for the Division of Cadastral Survey. DiPrete divides her time between the navigability team (she is the program lead) and her duties as a training coordinator. As a "nav specialist," she helps determine the ownership of waterbeds of Alaska rivers. Why? So BLM can convey those public lands with navigable waters to the state of Alaska. When she switches to her training coordinator job, she says, "I coordinate, organize and help determine training needs for the divisions of Cadastral Survey and Conveyance Management."

Susan DiPrete *Navigable Waters Specialist*



How long have you lived in Alaska? **17 1/2 years (July 1979)**

What do you enjoy most about your job? **The people . . . I love the guys!**

What is the last book you've read (or are currently reading)? **Driven to Distraction, by Edward Hallawell and John Ratey (The story of my life. . .)**

What is your idea of a good time? (Prolonged laughter) **Going to dinner with friends, going to Seward, getting out of town.**

What was your favorite job? **Natural resource specialist at the Anchorage District (1981-82) doing navigability work with Lance Lockard and Mac Wheeler. Our field trips were always great fun!**

If you had one year to live, what would you do? **Quit my job, go to Italy.**

Name one thing which people would be surprised to know about you? **I like to be left alone. I like quiet time. Oh, yeah, (pause) I was cheerleading captain and a class officer in high school.**

What does your "ultimate meal" consist of? **Maine lobster, salad, crusty Italian bread, and wine—preferably at the beach.**

What bad habit would you like to break? **I'm moody!**

What is your favorite place? **Anywhere on the beach—Homer and Seward, Alaska, or Hawaii, Rhode Island, the Cape.**

What is the most important thing you've learned since working for the BLM? **This is a great place to work! I've worked in family businesses, private industry, and at FAA . . . nothing compares with BLM!**

Health



Television models who gush about abdominal exercise machines have 6% to 10% body fat—the result of good genes, light eating and/or serious aerobic exercise. The average in-shape woman has 15% to 18% body fat; the average in-shape man has 12% to 15% body fat.

Source: *Fit Over Forty* by Dr. James Rippe

Workwise or OtherWise.

Bob Conquergood is BLM's representative to the School Business Partnership Board. Since 1995 an Anchorage School District-BLM partnership has helped high school juniors and seniors learn job skills while working for the BLM. Twenty-eight students have worked 14,000 hours earning \$102,000.

This year's Fur Rendezvous logo was designed by Resources illustrator **Carol Belenski**.



Her winning design is on all Fur Rondy promotional materials such as pins, t-shirts, belts, cups, etc.

Ana Stafford, land law examiner, finally met Gregory Anelon, Sr., at a Dec. 5 signing ceremony at the Department of Natural Resources office in Anchorage. There the 68-year old Iliamna Native received title to a 160-acre Native allotment. Stafford had worked his claim



left to right-Greg Balen, Gary Cunningham, Charles Hill, Jack Frost, Charles Luddington. First place winners of the BLM Family Feud game held January 29. The game was apart of BLM's annual All American Celebration.

throughout the years. Anelon promptly signed his claim over to the Nature Conservancy, who is paying Anelon \$250,000 for the property, which includes the Lower Talarik Creek, a world class trout stream. The Nature Conservancy will manage the land until its transfer to the State of Alaska where it will be a special protected area.

Scott Guyer, biologist with Cadastral Survey, is taking a more demure demeanor recently after participating in a bachelor auction at the Fourth Avenue Theater in Anchorage on Feb. 7. Although he earned a respectable \$600 for the

American Diabetes Association at the Date for Diabetes Bachelor

Auction, he was somewhat unnerved by the hundreds of gung ho women bidders. Guyer was one of 35 participants.

The Northern District is reviewing public comments received on a BLM environmental assessment which evaluates

proposed routes for an electric transmission line from Healy to

Fairbanks. The comment period ended Feb. 21. Golden Valley Electric Association plans to build a 230 kV overhead pipeline transmitting electricity from Healy to Fairbanks. A final decision on a preferred route is expected by spring.



Alaska People has a new look and editor. **Teresa McPherson**, AP's faithful editor for 4 1/2 years is handing off the publication to **Danielle Allen**, who will try some new things. E-mail me or call with your comments on this bi-monthly publication.

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